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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,128	01/19/2001	Koichi Kawamura	019519-287	8099

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, LAWRENCE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1774

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/764,128	KAWAMURA, KOICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lawrence D Ferguson	1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 4-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment mailed May 27, 2003.

Claims 1 was amended rendering claims 1 and 4-7 pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 4-7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al (U.S. 5,945,240) in view of Bhambra et al. (U.S. 6,105,500).

4. Tashiro discloses a direct imaging lithographic printing plate comprising a support and an image receiving layer provided thereon, said image receiving layer containing a binder and water soluble compound having hydrophilic functional groups capable of forming a chelate compound with metal ions (abstract and column 1, lines 27-29 and 53-62) where the chelates with metal ions are comprised of at least carboxylic acid group or a sulfonic acid group (abstract). Tashiro discloses surface roughness (column 2, lines 45-46 and column 5, line 56). Tashiro does not disclose the thickness of the image-receiving layer. Even though Tashiro is silent towards the thickness of the image-receiving layer, thickness is result effective and is therefore an

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optimizable feature. The thickness is optimizable as it directly affect the mechanical strength and durability of the printing plate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the components because discovering an optimum or workable range involves only routine skill in the art. (See *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 and *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d (CCPA 1980)). Tashiro does not disclose the printing plate comprising a direct chemical bond from the layer having hydrophilicity and the support.

Bhambra teaches a lithographic printing plate comprising a support and an image layer having hydrophilicity (column 5, lines 8-32) where the hydrophilic layer adheres to the support by chemical bonds, where the layer comprises a polymer (column 7, lines 37-65). Tashiro and Bhambra are analogous art because they are from the same field of lithographic printing plates. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a chemical bond between the layer having hydrophilicity and the support of Tashiro because Bhambra teaches the chemical bond increases the wear resistance of the printing plate (column 7, lines 37-49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1 and 4-7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al (U.S. 5,939,228) in view of Bhambra et al. (U.S. 6,105,500).
6. Tashiro discloses a direct imaging lithographic printing plate comprising a support and an image receiving layer provided thereon, said image receiving layer

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containing a binder and water soluble (hydrophilic) compound having hydrophilic functional groups capable of forming a chelate compound with metal ions (abstract and column 2, lines 30-45) where the chelates with metal ions are comprised of at least carboxylic acid group or a sulfonic acid group (abstract). Tashiro discloses surface roughness (column 20, line 56). Tashiro does not disclose the thickness of the image-receiving layer. Even though Tashiro is silent towards the thickness of the image-receiving layer, thickness is result effective and is therefore an optimizable feature. The thickness is optimizable as it directly affect the mechanical strength and durability of the printing plate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the components because discovering an optimum or workable range involves only routine skill in the art. (See *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 and *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d (CCPA 1980)). Tashiro does not disclose the printing plate comprising a direct chemical bond from the layer having hydrophilicity and the support.

Bhambra teaches a lithographic printing plate comprising a support and an image layer having hydrophilicity (column 5, lines 8-32) where the hydrophilic layer adheres to the support by chemical bonds, where the layer comprises a polymer (column 7, lines 37-65). Tashiro and Bhambra are analogous art because they are from the same field of lithographic printing plates. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a chemical bond between the layer having hydrophilicity and the support of Tashiro because Bhambra teaches the chemical bond increases the wear resistance of the printing plate (column 7, lines 37-49).

Response to Arguments

7. Remarks made of rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al (U.S. 5,945,240) have been considered but are moot based on grounds of new rejection. Additionally, remarks made of rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al. (U.S. 5,939,228) have been considered but are moot based on grounds of new rejection.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is (703) 305-9978. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (703) 308-0449. Please allow the examiner twenty-four hours to return your call.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.


Lawrence D. Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 1774

CYNTHIA H. KELLY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

